AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-18 (Canceled)

19. (Currently Amended)   A method of a mediator authenticating a client, the
client using a mobile telephonic device capable of sending and receiving short message
service (SMS) messages and having a client identifier address, the mediator performing
acts including:

a)   assigning a unique reply address to an SMS message from a multiplicity of
available predefined reply addresses;

b)   sending the SMS message to the client at the client identifier address; and

c)   when a SMS message is received at the unique reply address
authenticating the client if a reply to the SMS message is received at the unique reply
address.

20. (Canceled)

21.   (Original)   The method of claim 19, wherein the method further includes
storing the reply in a matrix including a first axis indexed by client calling line identifier
number and a second axis indexed by reply address.

22. (Currently Amended)   The method of claim 19, wherein the mediator includes
a network server programmed to perform the method A network server for performing a
method of authenticating a client, the client using a mobile telephonic device capable of

sending and receiving short message service (SMS) messages and having a client

identifier address, the network server configured to perform the steps of:

assigning a unique reply address to an SMS message from a multiplicity of

available reply addresses;

sending the SMS message to the client at the client identifier address; and

when a SMS message is received at the unique reply address authenticating the

client.

23. (Original) The method of claim 19, wherein the client's identifier address

includes an identifier chosen from the group consisting of a client's a-subscriber's

number, Calling Line Identity, e-mail address and IP address.

24-27 (Canceled)

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